

KY ARTS COUNCIL: LONG-RANGE PLANNING MEETING

Hopkinsville – October 24, 2002

Hosted by Pennyrile Arts Council/Alhambra Theater

Facilitated by Constance Alexander

Informal Section: As participants signed in, they filled out name tags and were invited to select items from the resource table. Beau provided musical entertainment, and an array of snacks and beverages was available.

Formal Welcome: As specified in the agenda, appropriate remarks were presented by Beau, representing the KAC; Paul Fourshee, representing KAC board; and Jennifer Maddox.

Introductions: As specified on the agenda, participants were asked to introduce themselves; identify organizational affiliation, if any; and give a brief overview of their individual/organizational interests in the arts. A summary of those interests is listed below:

- Want my children to have more than sports/NASCAR to enrich their lives.
- Need places to perform and to see performances.
- Wants music opportunities for people of all ages.
- Would like quality arts/performers to visit our area.
- Believe in importance of arts in education.
- Need to provide professional opportunities in the region for drama/acting.
- More and better visual arts exhibit spaces needed.
- We should surround our lives with art.
- Need to provide for facility needs, such as those at the Alhambra.
- Wants to see more hands-on opportunities for children.
- More art to lower income areas.
- Provide transportation for children and families to regional arts activities.
- Create community partnerships, such as with YMCA.
- Make grant, program information more easily available.

Small Group Work: As per instructions, facilitator asked people to select the KAC goal they wanted to work on, and that selection was the basis for 5 groups. Each group was given the tip sheet, and asked to appoint a scribe and a spokesperson. The outcome of each group is listed below. (Please note: Groups were given 17 minutes for this task, as this session was promoted as running from 5 to 7 p.m. Presentations were limited to 3 minutes each.)

Goal #1: Education in the arts is provided.

What kinds of programs or activities at the local level, at the regional level, or at the state level would contribute the most to making progress on this goal?

1. Take traditional programming and expand it to incorporate the arts.
2. Instill appreciate of the arts (parents) in children at an early age.

3. Put an influence on liberal arts as well as technical education. Develop the complete person.
4. KAC need to work more closely with State Department of Education to get the arts into the curriculum.
5. Local performers bring in big crowds. People will come to see their own children, grandchildren, etc.
6. Develop partnerships with YMCA, Housing Authority, Recreation Department, Walnut Street Center, etc.

What kinds of programs or activities within this goal would make the greatest difference in this community or region?

1. Transportation grants to offset costs.
2. Use local resource people as well as outside experts. Identify a pool of local resource people.

What do people in this community or region have the most energy for working on?

1. Sports
2. Church
3. Performance by own family members, especially music.

Goal #2: There is efficient statewide delivery of arts programs and services.

Need to bring arts to the people instead of always having people go to the arts. Facilities in rural areas and the lack of facilities is an issue. Western Ky has less opportunities than Louisville/Lexington area.

What kinds of programs or activities at the local level, regional level, state level would contribute the most to making progress on this goal?

1. Traveling visual arts exhibits throughout the state and artists traveling with them.
2. Traveling performances.

What kinds of programs or activities within this goal would make the greatest difference in this community or region?

1. Programs for young adults are needed, such as community theater. There are activities for the young and for the elderly, but not much for the in-between ages.

What do people in this community or region have the most energy for working on?

1. Children's programs – participation/hands-on activities.

Goal #3: Artists live and work in a supportive environment.

What kinds of programs or activities at the local level, regional level, state level would contribute the most to making progress on this goal?

1. Have a meeting place. Need more funding applicable to visual and performing arts.
2. Build substantial presence in community.
3. Ways to feed groups (esp. children) into larger musical/arts organizations.

What kinds of programs or activities within this goal would make the greatest difference in this community or region?

1. Increase education to youth by exposing them to field trips, exhibits, etc.
2. Create core of visual and performing artists to travel to appropriate surrounding areas.
3. Create a regional directory of performing/visual artists in the region that can be used as a resource.
4. Increase the number of education and workshops.
5. Have a communal meeting place to house an artists' co-op, studios for artists, art centers, etc.
6. Art centers to be expanded to include a greater network of artists.
7. Provide places for artists to exhibit work for the community's welfare, enrichment (emphasis again on children and young adults).
8. Work more to provide activities/programs in conjunction with education of arts. Work with public school systems.

What do people in this community or region have the most energy for working on?

1. Poverty > where art suffers at the expense of.

Goal #4: The role of arts in society is valued as basic to life.

What kinds of programs or activities at the local level, regional level, state level would contribute the most to making progress on this goal?

1. Existing programs miss out on children who cannot afford it.
2. Utilize Chambers of Commerce, businesses, churches to recognize the importance of the arts; to promote the arts. Chamber members don't know how to answer questions about importance of the arts and their contribution to economy.
3. Educate Economic Development Corporations regarding the importance of the arts.

What kinds of programs or activities within this goal would make the greatest difference in this community or region?

1. People with interest in the arts should serve in positions like elected offices, EDC groups, etc.
2. Promote the arts through individual arts organizations.

What do people in this community or region have the most energy for working on?

1. Church
2. Children's activities
3. Could use public figures, including sports figures, to promote the arts in a public forum.

Goal #5: Public policy is favorable to the arts in Kentucky. (Please note – only 2 people were in this group.)

What kinds of programs or activities at the local level, regional level, state level would contribute the most to making progress on this goal?

1. Public awareness. Need to inform people of the importance of the arts.

2. Arts are ranked lowest in priority but highest in people feeling it is highest addressed.
3. Reasons for low priority of the arts – no exposure.
4. Legislators can only get it when economic benefits are shown. Tickets/sales.
5. Need to get public policy in favor of art in public places.

What kinds of programs or activities within this goal would make the greatest difference in this community or region?

1. Education – hands-on activities.
2. Display children's art work.

What do people in this community or region have the most energy for working on?

1. Strong sense of community and good organization skills.
2. Financial

Whole Group Work: Using the worksheet provided, we went through the KAC goals and the KLTPRC top issues, answering the questions as thoroughly as possible within the time constraints. Responses are listed below.

Goal #1/Safe/caring communities

1. The arts are a safe, family-oriented activity.
2. Art can make a community safer.
3. Involving the underserved can make neighborhoods safer.
4. Arts can transform children into successful adults.
5. Arts can provide release/relaxation for adults and improve mental health for the elderly.

How can I or my organization contribute to progress on this goal?

1. Create traveling exhibits.
2. Use retirees with artistic skills to create exhibits.
3. Take a "head start" approach to the arts.

Goal #2/Responsibility for family success

1. Bring in touring programs.
2. Travel the arts throughout the region. Get a bus, fill it with art/artists, and go throughout the region.
3. Identify partners for co-sponsoring arts events.
4. Use the arts to stimulate pride in the community.
5. There is a lot of energy for kids' programs, hands-on activities. People want to be part of performance, such as in community theater.

Goal #3:

1. Touring groups from outside can cause neglect of regional artists.
2. Meeting places are needed.
3. Need to build substantial presence for the arts in the community.

Goal #4:

1. We need to re-define/expand the concept of personal success. It is more than what you are worth or what you achieve.
2. See the arts in everything around us, including popular culture, architecture, design.
3. If we value the arts, it creates a more civil society.

Goal #5:

1. If we can demonstrate the arts as valuable to civilization, the money can follow.
2. If we can demonstrate the value of the arts to politicians, it will increase their awareness.
3. Drama is a tool to create awareness.
4. Need to expand perception of what is art. Putting kids' art on refrigerator shows appreciation for art. Need to connect arts with what people are already doing.

Other Comments:

1. Need to quantify the impact of the arts on the community/state. Bring studies down to local level; adapt data for local uses.
2. Need to provide more information to local people that they can use for grants, public relations, education.
3. Create traveling exhibits. Bring art to individual communities.
4. Need to know how to lobby local officials effectively for the arts.
5. Would like to see a presenters' network-type arrangement for arts educators.
6. A Teen Arts program, such as the one in NJ, would encourage longer-term involvement in the arts.
7. Folklife programs are another resource available to local communities.

Facilitator Comments:

As we neared the end of the agenda, the group was less willing to discuss each KLTPRC issue one by one. They combined their suggestions about what their organization or others could do with the goals of the KAC long-range plan. While no one brought up accessible, quality health-care and how that could be related to the arts, there are opportunities to make a connection there. I did not say that, as my role was of facilitator. However, it would be good for the KAC to showcase the community artist residency I just completed with WKMS-FM, which was about end-of-life issues, including accessible affordable health care for minorities. This project, "Promises to Keep," won national attention and has achieved long-term results that go far beyond local/regional boundaries. I believe it is a model program because of its unique incorporation of the arts, and could be replicated by others.

Constance Alexander

Report Submitted by Constance Alexander

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